

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 16, which has been canceled.

Claim 2 has been amended to recite that “R₁ represents an unsubstituted alkyl group.”

Claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 17, which has been canceled.

Claim 14 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 18, which has been canceled.

Claims 3 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form to include all the recitations of claim 2, the base claim from which claims 3 and 6 depended.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-15 will be pending in the present application.

Claims 3, 6, 9 and 16-18 have been objected to as allegedly being dependent upon a rejected base claim, are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants have rewritten claims 3 and 6 in independent form.

Claim 9 is written in independent form and thus does not need to be rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 2, 8 and 14 have been amended to include the recitations of allowable claims 16-18, which have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 8, and 14, and the claims depending therefrom, are allowable.

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In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection.

Claims 1, 12 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Sanz et al (“Sanz”).

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10 and 12-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Aoso et al., JP 2002-255930 (“Aoso”).

Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Aoso et al. (“Aoso”) (JP 2002-255930 and DERWENT English Abstract for the Japanese document) in view of Watanabe et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,613,844 B2 (“Watanabe ‘844”).

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Aoso et al. (“Aoso”) (JP 2002-255930 and DERWENT English Abstract for the Japanese document) in view of Nitta et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,605,417 B2 (“Nitta”).

Claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Aoso et al. (“Aoso”) (JP 2002-255930 and DERWENT English Abstract for the Japanese document) in view of Watanabe et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,818,148 B2 (“Watanabe ‘148”).

Claims 1, 2, 8 and 14 have been amended to include the recitations of allowable claims 16 to 18, which have been canceled. The Examiner expressly states in the Office Action that Aoso and Sanz do not teach or suggest the claimed formula, formula (I), wherein R₁ is an unsubstituted alkyl group (the subject matter of claims 16-18). Therefore, claims 1, 2, 8 and 14, as amended, and the claims depending therefrom would not be anticipated by Aoso or Sanz and would not be obvious over Aoso in view of Watanabe ‘844 or Watanabe ‘148 or over Aoso in

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view of Nitta. Reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

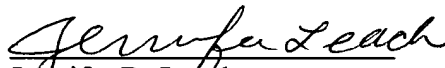
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